Un-manned Satellites on Postage Stamps : 18

By Guest Contributors Don Hillger and Garry Toth

The Vanguard Series

This is the eighteenth in a series of articles about un-manned satellites on postage stamps. This article features the **Vanguard**-series satellites. Vanguard-1 was the second successful satellite launched by the U. S. on 17 March 1958, having been preceded by Explorer-1 launched on 31 January 1958. As mentioned in the Explorer-1 article in this series, Vanguard would have been the first U.S. satellite had there not been a failure of the first announced launch attempt in December of 1957. That failure allowed Explorer-1 to become the first successful U.S. satellite.

The Navy's Project Vanguard was one of many disappointments and embarrassments for the U.S. after the successful launch of both Sputnik-1 and Sputnik-2 by the Soviet Union in late 1957. A second Vanguard failed in February 1958 before the first successful Vanguard was launched. (By that time the second Explorer, Explorer-2, had been attempted, but failed to orbit.) Of the eleven Vanguard orbital attempts, only three Vanguards were launched successfully, all eight others were failures, in the years 1957 through 1959.

The Vanguard satellites look more like what one would expect of a satellite, rather than the rocket-like shape of the Explorer-1 satellite. Vanguards have basically spherical bodies with antennas that are attached perpendicular to the body, unlike the folded-back antennas on Sputnik-1 that appear to give it motion even in a static image. Each of the three successful Vanguards had a unique appearance, as can be seen in the reference images available on the Website developed by the authors. Both Vanguard-1 and 2 can be identified on many postal items. However there are a large number of items where the images are quite small and the identification is not entirely clear. These items are designated "like-Vanguard-2" in the checklist that accompanies this article, since they appear to have a body and antennas similar to those of Vanguard-2. Vanguard-3 is known to appear on only one postal item, a Souvenir Sheet issued by Chad in 1996 (*Michel* BL248).

Readers are referred to the authors' Website for reference images of the satellites in the Vanguard series, as well as images of launch covers and postal items that feature these satellites. As a complement to this article, a checklist of Vanguard satellites is presented both here and on the Website developed by the authors http://www.cira.colostate.edu/ramm/hillger/satellites.htm. E-mail correspondence is welcome. Don Hillger can be reached at hillger@cira.colostate.edu and Garry Toth at garry_toth@hotmail.com.

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Checklist of Postal Items Showing Vanguard-Series Satellites

Country	Catalog # *	Type of Item **	Year	Notes on Content
Aitutaki	314		1983	Vanguard-1
Aitutaki	314a	SS3 (312-314)	1983	Vanguard-1
Ajman State	Mi2787	One of MS8+8 labels	1973	Vanguard-2
Ajman State	sMi2787	One of small MS8+8 labels, changed colors	1973	Vanguard-2
Ajman State	iMi2787	One of imperf. MS8+8 labels, changed colors	1973	Vanguard-2
Ajman State	Mi2787_ssi	Imperforate SS1	1973	Vanguard-2
Australia	388		1965	Vanguard-2
Adzharia Rep.	Local	Cuba 2132 overprint on 4x Russia 5723	199?	Like-Vanguard-2[1]
Adzharia Rep.	Local	Cuba 2132 overprint on 4x Russia 6060	199?	Like-Vanguard-2[1]
Adzharia Rep.	Local	Cuba 2132 overprint on 4x Russia 6068	199?	Like-Vanguard-2[1]
Burundi	C186	Block of 4 (C186a-d)	1973	Vanguard-2
Burundi	C186e	SS16 (C183-C186)	1973	Vanguard-2
Chad	Unknown	SS1	1996	Vanguard-3
Chad	710a	One of SS6 (710a-f)	1997	Vanguard-1
Cuba	1178a	In margin of imperf. SS3 (1176-1178)	1966	Like-Vanguard-2[1]
Cuba	2132	Stamp-on-stamp: East Germany 370	1977	Like-Vanguard-2[1]
Cuba	2135	Stamp-on-stamp: Poland 882	1977	Like-Vanguard-2[1]
Equatorial Guinea	Mi588		1975	Vanguard-2 (not Intasat)
France	1270		1970	Like-Vanguard-2[1] (not Dial/Wika)
Fujeira	Mi72		1966	Vanguard-1
Fujeira	Mi151	Mi72 overprinted new currency	1967	Vanguard-1
Fujeira	Mi346	Mi72 overprinted "Apollo-8"	1967	Vanguard-1
Germany (East)	370		1957	Vanguard-2
Germany (West)	None	Cancel on cover	196~	Vanguard-2
Germany (West)	None	Meter	1977	Like-Vanguard-2[1]
Ghana	164		1964	Vanguard-2
Ghana	165		1964	Vanguard-2
Ghana	166		1964	Vanguard-2
Ghana	166a	Imperforate SS4 (4x (166))	1964	Vanguard-2
Ghana	186		1964	Vanguard-2
Ghana	186a	MS12 (12x (186))	1964	Vanguard-2
Ghana	187		1964	Vanguard-2
Ghana	187a	MS12 (12x (187))	1964	Vanguard-2
Ghana	188		1964	Vanguard-2
Ghana	188a	MS12 (12x (188))	1964	Vanguard-2
Haiti	424		1958	Vanguard-1
Haiti	C119		1958	Vanguard-1
Haiti	C121a	SS4 (427, C119-C121)	1958	Vanguard-1
Hungary	2492	Single + label, stamp-on-stamp: East Germany 370	1977	Like-Vanguard-2[1]
Hungary	2492a	MS3 (3x (2492)) + 3 labels	1977	Like-Vanguard-2[1]
Korea (North)	1450		1976	Vanguard-1
Nigeria	143a	In margin of MS12 (12x (143))	1963	Vanguard-2
Nigeria	144a	In margin of MS12 (12x (144))	1963	Vanguard-2
Panama	C334a (BL36) iC334a (BL37)	In margin of SS2, (C333-C334), changed colors on imperforate	1965	Vanguard-2
Panama	C336a iC336a	In margin of SS2, (C333-C334), changed colors on imperforate	1965	Vanguard-2
Paraguay	922 (Mi1522) i922 (Mi1530)	Changed colors on imperforate	1966	Vanguard-2
Paraguay	926 (Mi1526) i926 (Mi1534)	Changed colors on imperforate	1966	Vanguard-2
Paraguay	926a (BL79) i926a (BL80)	SS1 (926), changed colors on imperforate	1966	Vanguard-2
Poland	822		1958	Vanguard-2
Romania	C51a	Pair (C49+C51) + label	1957	Like-Vanguard-2[1]

Romania	C52a	Pair (C50+C52) + label	1957	Like-Vanguard-2[1]
Romania	None	Stamped envelope, stamp like C49/C50	1957	Like-Vanguard-2[1]
Romania	C51a (o/p)	Pair (C49+C51) + label, overprinted	1958	Like-Vanguard-2[1]
Romania	C51a (inverted o/p)	Pair (C49+C51)+label, inverted overprint	1958	Like-Vanguard-2[1]
Romania	C52a (o/p)	Pair (C50+C52)+label, overprinted	1958	Like-Vanguard-2[1]
Romania	C52a (inverted o/p)	Pair (C50+C52)+label, inverted overprint	1958	Like-Vanguard-2[1]
Romania	C119	Stamp-on-stamp: C49, C51, C56	1962	Like-Vanguard-2[1]
Romania	C122a	Imperforate SS4 , (C119-C121), stamp-on-stamp:C49,C51,C56	1962	Like-Vanguard-2[1]
Sharjah	Mi975		19??	Vanguard-1
Sharjah	BL110	SS1	19??	Vanguard-1
Surinam	B100		1964	Vanguard-2
Umm Al Qiwain	Mi84		1966	Vanguard-1
Umm Al Qiwain	BL5A BL5B	Perforate and imperf. SS2 (Mi83-84)	1966	Vanguard-1
Umm Al Qiwain	Mi95	Mi84 overprinted new currency	1967	Vanguard-1
Umm Al Qiwain	BL6A BL6B	Perforate and imperf. SS2 (Mi94-95), BL5 overprint new currency	1967	Vanguard-1
Umm Al Qiwain	m334H*	Embossed gold	1969	Vanguard-1
Umm Al Qiwain	m334I*	SS1, embossed gold	1969	Vanguard-1
United Nations	SC22	Souvenir card of 7 (New York 112, 256, 373, Geneva 46, 109-110, Vienna 27)	1982	Like-Vanguard-2[1]
United Nations	SC22	SC22 with New York cancel	1982	Like-Vanguard-2[1]
United Nations (Geneva)	110		1982	Like-Vanguard-2[1]
United Nations (Geneva)	SC22	SC22 with Geneva cancel	1982	Like-Vanguard-2[1]
United Nations (Vienna)	27		1982	Like-Vanguard-2[1]
United Nations (Vienna)	SC22	SC22 with Vienna cancel	1982	Like-Vanguard-2[1]
United States	None	Meter	196?	Vanguard-1
United States	3187a	One of pane of 15 (3187a-o)	1999	Vanguard-1
Yemen Arab Rep.	Mi903 Mi910	Perforate and imperf. Changed colors on imperforate.	1969	Vanguard-1
Yemen Arab Rep.	Mi910_ms12	Imperforate MS12 (12x (Mi910))	1969	Vanguard-1

* *Scott* catalog number, unless indicated with Mi or BL for *Michel*, or m for *Minkus*, "i" prefix denotes imperforate version; "s" prefix denotes smaller version.

** SS# = souvenir sheet, MS# = miniature sheet, where # = number of stamps in sheet, and the numbers in parentheses are the catalog numbers of the stamps in the sheet.

[1] "like-Vanguard-2" items have the appearance of Vanguard-2, but the images of the satellite are quite small. ❖

North Korea 1450

Yemen Arab Rep. Mi910

Cuba 2132

Haiti 424

Chad 710a

Aitutaki 314

E. Germany 370

Umm Al Qiwain Mi95

IDENTITY STAMP

MEMBER PROFILE

Brian G Vincent of New Zealand.

Brian has recently joined our Society. He has a keen interest in both astronomy (he still has the first book on this subject given by his parents for Christmas in 1962) and in space flight. His interest in space flights began at the time when the first Sputnik was in orbit and he remembers clearly its "bleeps" that were broadcast on the radio network news.

He has been a stamp collector since around 8 years of age. Over the years this has included collecting stamps and covers relating to the space topic (mostly items from USA and Russia) and currently he has a particular interest in rocket mail. This area of his collecting interests has received more attention in recent months leading him to join both our Society as well as the Space Unit of USA.

Brian is also a member of the Royal Philatelic Society of New Zealand and is a Fellow and currently President of that Society. He was Editor of their handbook "Postage Stamps of New Zealand Volume VIII". Brian's other collections include Rugby football (exhibited nationally and internationally), jazz, Papua and New Zealand.

Brian has just been nominated as New Zealand's representative for the FIP Commission of Astrophilately.